

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A load distribution method adopted by a client-server system comprising a plurality of clients and a server cluster, which includes a plurality of servers each used for processing requests made by said clients and allows the number of said servers to be changed dynamically, wherein each of said clients:
  - detects the number of servers composing said server cluster;
  - right after detecting an increase in said number of servers, sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to a newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers; and
  - transmits out requests to said servers on the basis of said set allocation.
2. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value increasing with the lapse of time.
3. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein said detection of an increase in said number of said servers is used as a trigger of each of said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers.
4. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients:
  - acquires information on a performance of said newly added server; and
  - sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server on the basis of said acquired information.
5. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients:
  - acquires information on a state of said newly added server; and
  - sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server on

the basis of said acquired information.

6. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 5, wherein said information on a state of said newly added server includes at least a cache hit rate, a cache utilization ratio or the number of requests each waiting for a processing turn.

7. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein:

said client-server system has a management server for managing the number of servers composing said server cluster; and

a notice received from said management server as a notice of an increase in said number of said servers is used as a trigger of each of said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers.

8. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1 wherein:

said client-server system has a management server for acquiring information on a performance of each of said servers; and

each of said clients:

acquires said information on a performance of each of said servers;

sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server on the basis of said acquired information.

9. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ & claim 1, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.

10. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing quotas each set for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.

11. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 10 wherein:
- said client-server system has storage apparatus connected to said servers;
  - each of said servers holds directory information indicating storage locations of files stored in said storage apparatus; and
  - each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information stored in said individual server where said allotment of said directory information storable in said individual server represents an allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.
12. (Original) A client-server system comprising a plurality of clients and a server cluster, which includes a plurality of servers each used for processing requests made by said clients and allows the number of said servers to be changed dynamically, wherein:
- each of said clients includes:
    - a load-setting unit for setting an allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers;
    - a server-count detection unit for detecting the number of servers composing said server cluster; and
    - a load distribution unit for transmitting out requests to each of said servers on the basis of allocations each set by said load-setting unit as said allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers; and
  - right after said server-count detection unit detects an increase in said number of servers, said load-setting unit sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to a newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers.
13. (Original) A client-server system according to claim 12 wherein:
- each of said clients has an allotment-holding unit for holding an allotment set for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server; and
  - said load-setting unit sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to each of

said servers by changing quotas each set for every individual one of said servers as said allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.

14. (Original) A client-server system according to claim 13, said client-server system further comprising storage apparatus connected to said servers wherein:

each of said servers is provided with a directory-information-holding unit for holding directory information indicating storage locations of files stored in said storage apparatus;

said clients are provided with a management server for holding quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information storable in said individual server; and

said load-setting unit sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing said quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information stored in said individual server.

15. (New) A load distribution method according to claim 2 wherein:

said client-server system has a management server for managing the number of servers composing said server cluster; and

a notice received from said management server as a notice of an increase in said number of said servers is used as a trigger of each of said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers.

16. (New) A load distribution method according to claim 2, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.

17. (New) A load distribution method according to claim 3, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.

18. (New) A load distribution method according to claim 4, wherein each of said clients

sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.

19. (New) A load distribution method according to claim 5, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.
20. (New) A load distribution method according to claim 6, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.
21. (New) A load distribution method according to claim 7, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.
22. (New) A load distribution method according to claim 15, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.
23. (New) A load distribution method according to claim 8, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.